GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1696
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
RURAL HEALTH CENTRES
BASUDEB ACHARIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the condition of Rural Health Centres (RHCs) in the country is worsening day-by-day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Union Government have been monitoring the functioning of RHCs in the country particularly use of funds allocated by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the average population being covered by each Community Health Centre in the country;

(f) whether the Government propose to review the whole rural health care programmes in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Government is aware of shortfalls within rural health care system, mainly on account of inadequate out-reach of infrastructure and trained manpower.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The functioning of the Rural Health Centres is monitored in innumerable ways.

1. The Ministry of health and Family Welfare, Department of Family Welfare has introduced an annual Rapid House-hold Survey whereby samples of households in 50% of the districts of India are surveyed every year. Every alternate year we have an update on district level information for 100% districts as to whether RCH services are being utilized by the people and to what extent.

2. Additionally we have a Health Facility Survey which focuses on Community Health Centres andPrimary Health Centres, and ascertains whether these health infrastructure are operational, and to what extent. This facility survey is conducted in 50% districts in each States.

3. Regional Directors of Health and Family Welfare strategically located in 17 sites, repeatedly monitor the extent and outreach of Health and Family Welfare Programmes.They forward regular reports which highlight deficiencies and inadequacies in on-going programmes and projects.

4. Department of Family Welfare has repeated interaction with State Ministers of Health and Family Welfare, State Health and Family Welfare Secretaries and also on occasion, Project Directors of specific projects in order to review and monitor on-going scheme.

5. Finally, all officers/officials of the Department of Family Welfare tour States/Districts to obtain first hand information about their functioning

(e) On an average, a Community Health Centre covers a population of 1,20,000 in plain areas and 80,000 in hilly and tribal areas

(f) & (g) Government has identified the existing gaps in rural health care and has already begun putting in place specific interventions to plug these critical gaps, especially in the area of shortages of trained manpower, inadequate supplies, weak linkages for referral transportations, and round the clock delivery services.